



## **500.47 Bomb Threat**

Number Series: 500—Operational  
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Sheriff's Approval: Digital  
Review Frequency: 3- Years

### **POLICY**

The Hendry County Sheriff's Office responds to incidents involving the use of or threatened use of any explosive device or weapon of mass destruction including the safeguarding of lives, and subsequent investigation, if necessary.

### **PROCEDURE**

- A. When a bomb threat has been reported within Hendry County, initiate the following responses:
  1. Initial Notifications:
    - a. When a bomb threat call is received, the call taker:
      1. Ascertains as accurately as possible the following:
        - a. When is the bomb going to explode?
        - b. Where is it right now?
        - c. What does it look like?
        - d. What kind of bomb is it?
        - e. What will cause it to explode?
        - f. Did you place the bomb?
        - g. Why?
        - h. What is your address?
        - i. What is your name?
    2. Attempts to record the exact wording of the threat and attempts to ascertain from the caller or by voice characteristics:
      - a. The gender of the caller
      - b. Race
      - c. Age
      - d. The length of the call
      - e. The phone number to which the call came
      - f. The time the call was received
      - g. The date
      - h. Background noise
      - i. Is voice human or automated.
    3. Immediately start tracing when the call has disconnected.
    4. Relays all details to the Telecommunications Center as quickly as possible.

- b. When a bomb threat call is received directly by the Telecommunications Center, the call taker:
  1. Follows the steps in Section 1(a)-(c) above to gather details.
  2. Ascertains who received the original call and as much of the conversation as possible (as close to verbatim as possible) when a bomb threat is made directly to a target site.
  3. Dispatches a patrol deputy to the scene.
  4. Notifies the on-duty patrol supervisor holding the rank of sergeant or above.
  5. Notifies the Fire Department responsible for that jurisdiction.
  6. Advises the Telecommunications supervisor to notify the SRT Commander which will advise on calling out the Southwest Florida Bomb Unit.
  7. Relays information from the on-scene patrol deputy or patrol supervisor to the SRT team.
  8. Notifies other personnel as necessary in accordance with Procedure 500.24: Command Staff Notifications.

B. Initial Response:

1. On-scene patrol deputies:
  - a. Refrain from using radios and cellular phones.
  - b. Attempt to locate the person who received the bomb threat, verify the original information, obtain all additional pertinent information if available, and attempt to locate and identify any other witnesses to the incident.
  - c. Advise owners and/or managers of private businesses of potential hazards and leave the decision to close the business or evacuate the personnel to them unless otherwise directed by competent authority.
  - d. Notify the school principal and any assigned school resource officer, if a threat is made to a school or school facility. Advise the principal or a school board representative of the potential hazards and leave the decision to close the school or evacuate the school to the principal unless otherwise directed by competent authority.
  - e. Advise the responsible party if a search is to be made and request the assistance of personnel familiar with the premises. Do not conduct a search within 30 minutes prior to or 30 minutes after the reported/threatened time of detonation.
2. If a suspect device is located on or near the premises, the deputy:
  - a. Immediately advises the owner/manager.
  - b. Chooses an evacuation site in a safe area that has been searched for a secondary device then orders an evacuation of the building in an orderly manner. Evacuation sites are recommended to be a minimum distance of 100 yards and, if possible, a distance of 300 yards; minimal evacuation distance may vary based on the potential hazard of the device.
  - c. Avoids physical contact with, close examination of, or movement of suspect device. Do not touch the device.
  - d. Advises the Telecommunications Center (via telephone) that the SRT is needed on the scene and notifies the patrol supervisor of the request.
  - e. Contacts the on-call Criminal Investigations Detective.

- f. Re-evaluates the scene to determine if the evacuation perimeter needs to be expanded.

#### C. Bomb Squad

1. Only Southwest Florida Bomb Unit technicians are to be involved in the render safe procedure or other close proximity operations for a device.
2. Upon notification of suspect device discovery, the Southwest Florida Bomb Unit ascertains the specific location and incident risk potential and responds with the Bomb Technicians in a manner appropriate with the identified risk.
3. Upon arrival at the scene, the Southwest Florida Bomb Unit assumes responsibility for:
  - a. Handling and evaluating the suspect device to render it safe, if possible.
  - b. Separating hazardous materials for transport.
  - c. Transporting hazardous materials to a disposal area.
4. When a suspect device cannot be rendered safe at the site where discovered and/or hazardous materials cannot be safely separated on site:
  - a. Place the suspect device inside the bomb transport trailer.
  - b. The following vehicles comprise an explosive transport convoy:
    1. Bomb response vehicle and trailer.
    2. Fire-fighting vehicle with vehicle-mounted fire fighting equipment (when deemed necessary).
    3. Marked patrol escort vehicle in the front and rear (when deemed necessary).
  - c. Establish a safe travel route that avoids heavily populated areas and underpasses, when possible.
  - d. Select a safe disposal site that is consistent with travel hazards and with safe disposal procedures.
  - e. The Southwest Florida Bomb Unit on scene supervises the transport and disposal of the suspect device, and if detonated, conducts a post blast investigation.
  - f. The Bomb technician collects evidence from the suspect device both post and pre-blast. Request assistance from the Crime Scene Unit for collection of non-device evidence and crime scene documentation if necessary.

#### D. Investigations and Reports

1. Preliminary Investigation:
  - a. Bomb Squad personnel provide technical assistance during the preliminary investigation.
  - b. Crime Scene Unit personnel assist the assigned bomb technician with the preliminary investigation of the crime scene. Adhere to pertinent crime scene investigation protocols when conducting preliminary investigations at bomb scenes.
2. Follow-Up Investigation:
  - a. The Criminal Investigations Unit Detective and the assigned Southwest Florida Bomb Unit deputy share joint responsibility for the follow-up investigation of the bomb incident. Bomb Unit personnel provide technical assistance during the follow-up investigation.
    1. The Bomb technician on scene initiates a supplement report, if assisting Sheriff's Office personnel.

2. The Bomb technician originates a case report, if assisting another agency.
  3. The Bomb technician submits an appropriate report to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS).
    - b. The Criminal Investigations Unit conducts the follow-up investigation in the event the incident involves death or serious injury likely to cause death of a person.
3. Reports:
    - a. The responding deputy sheriff completes an initial report.
    - b. The designated bomb technician on scene prepares a SRT Call-out Report containing:
      1. Photographs of the scene and explosive device, if available.
      2. Detailed description of the explosive device.
      3. Critique of operational tactics.
      4. Suggestions for correction of operational errors or procedure deficiencies.

## DEFINITIONS

**BOMB RESPONSE VEHICLE** – A vehicle equipped with emergency warning lights and siren specially designed to tow an explosive transport trailer.

**BOMB SQUAD TECHNICIAN** – Designated deputy sheriff with current certification who has been specially trained according to Federal Guidelines in handling explosive materials and a graduate of the Hazardous Device School.

**DEVICE** – An item suspected of having explosive or incendiary potential, which includes, but is not limited to, homemade bombs (Improvised Explosive Devices), military ordnance, and explosive or incendiary chemical compounds. This does not include small quantities of rifle/shotgun/handgun ammunition and legal commercial fireworks (i.e., firecrackers, bottle rockets and/or Class C fireworks as defined in State and Federal guidelines).

**ESCORT VEHICLES** – Vehicles that are required for transporting a device to a safe area for render safe procedures to be conducted.

**EXPLOSIVE TRANSPORT TRAILER** – A trailer specially designed with a holding container capable of venting gas and fragmentation upward in the event of an explosion during transport.

**WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION** – Any device or object that contains biological, chemical, nuclear or explosive materials or any combination thereof with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury to any human or animal, or severe emotional or mental harm to any human.

## REFERENCES

State/Federal Regulations:

None

CFA:

CFA Standard 17.07M

Forms:

None

Other Policy/ Procedure References:

500.24 Command Staff Notifications